

Maracas are dried gourds used as rattles. The dried seeds inside rattle when the gourds are shaken. Maracas are common rhythm instruments enjoyed and played during Mexican, Central American and some South American fiestas and parties, or as important parts of everyday music.

Balloon Maracas

Materiales:

- * balloons (round)
- * bathroom/kitchen counter top sealant
- * 1/2" strips of newspaper
- * blunt knife
- * glue gun (if available)
- * shellac
- * glue
- * dowel sticks (6" longer than the diameter of the inflated balloon)
- * beans or pebbles
- * tempera paint (or regular paint)
- * paintbrush

1. Inflate and tie the balloons. Cover the surfaces entirely with three to four layers of paper maché. Allow to dry. (This make take a few days)
2. Cut a small hole in the paper maché forms and remove the balloons inside.
3. Place approximately one dozen beans or pebbles in the opening of the maracas and then glue paper maché over the holes.
4. Put a dab of glue on the end of a dowel stick. Insert it in one end of the shell all the way through until it sticks to the inside wall of the opposite side of each maracas. (Use a glue gun, if possible)
5. Place sealant or glue around the handles where they enter the shells.
6. Paint the maracas in bright colors. After the paint dries, add a coat of shellac. Be sure the room is well ventilated when using shellac.

Push stick through to glue at opposite end inside

Dowel sticks

